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Stimulus Alumni Newsletter

Social Work Office of Research & Public Service  
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12-1-2007

## Stimulus, Fall/Winter 2007

UT College of Social Work

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Fall/Winter  
2007

# stimulus

The Alumni Newsletter for the University of Tennessee College of Social Work

**1942–2007**  
**65 Years of Excellence**



THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE



College of Social Work

*C. Freeman*

## also in this issue:

- The College of Social Work Ranks 7th in Publication Productivity
- Unique Program for Children of Migrant Workers Receives National Acclaim
- Professor Rod Ellis Teaches Faculty Seminar in Mexico
- CSW Alumnus James Kelly Elected NASW President





## Let's Celebrate! The College of Social Work Is 65 Years Old

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We're celebrating our 65th anniversary! Founded in 1942, the college may be 65 years old, but we are more vibrant than ever. As this issue of *Stimulus* is going to press, we are gearing up for a special anniversary celebration at the annual gala this year—we hope you will join us in celebrating all the accomplishments of the college over the last 65 years! Also, be sure and visit our website at [www.csw.utk.edu](http://www.csw.utk.edu) and go to the alumni page to view our 65th anniversary memory book (you may even see yourself there!).

This issue is jam-packed with the accomplishments of faculty, alums, and students. Our graduates continue to excel in the profession, our students are engaging in important international and policy arenas, and our faculty are on the forefront of research and community service. Mounting a new curriculum that is grounded in critical thinking and infused by evidence-based practice, the faculty are engaging in their own study and implementation of these critical components to social work education. Using a

curricular competency-based approach, we will be systematically tracking student learning outcomes and competencies and using those outcomes to further refine the new curriculum. As part of this effort we will be instituting the use of electronic portfolios that will engage students in their own learning process and provide them with personalized evidence of their knowledge and skills while also providing an individualized portfolio for use in the job market. Many of you have participated in the development of this new push for a cutting-edge curriculum, which responds to the emerging needs of the community and our increasingly global environment. We owe you a great debt of thanks for your involvement and we invite your continued input as we move forward.

I am humbled by the great works of our college and the many strides we have made over the last ten years. We have much to be proud of—and you to thank for the unwavering support that you provide in so many ways!

*Paul M. Downes*

## Alumna Elliott Moore to Lead College's Campaign

by Kirche Rogers

This year has been an exciting one for the College of Social Work! A new MSSW curriculum based on state-of-the-art knowledge and grounded upon core social work values and ethics was instituted; the scope of research, service, and instruction in the college has expanded to the international arena; and the CSW earned the rank of 7th in publication productivity. Looking toward the future, the college set its goal for raising funds to continue this work and strengthen its educational, research, and outreach programs and services through the Campaign for Tennessee.

The Campaign for Tennessee, a university system-wide fundraising capital campaign, is embarking on a long-range endeavor to secure funding from individuals, businesses, not-for-profit groups, and others who support the university's goals and mission. Each college is charged with establishing a monetary goal that will help expand its programs and services. The College of Social Work's goal is to raise \$5 million by 2011. Board of Visitors member and alumna Elliott Moore (MSSW '78) was invited by Dean Sowers and Chancellor Crabtree to lead the college's fundraising efforts. She eagerly accepted the invitation to help spread the word about the good work the college is doing across the state and to ask for help in continuing to do that work.

The college provides education, research, and outreach programs to help children, families, and communities realize their full potential and prepares students to do the same. Top priorities for the use of funds contributed to the college are to create an endowed chair in the Children's Mental Health Services Research Center to continue the center's groundbreaking research and to establish graduate and undergraduate fellowships and scholarships to attract the best students.

Mrs. Moore looks forward to communicating with people across the state to raise money for performing this important work. "I was honored to be asked to help, and I'm looking forward to traveling across the state, talking to former graduates and individuals who understand and value the importance of social work in today's society." Mrs. Moore is the assistant vice president of community and government relations at Mountain States Health Alliance, headquartered in Johnson City. She has more than 20 years' experience in government relations, with an emphasis on health, mental health, and family policy.

"Elliott's extensive experience, wide network of contacts both regionally and nationally, and her dedication to social work make her an ideal leader for the college's capital campaign," stated CSW Development Director Stephanie Piper. Dean Sowers added, "The College of Social Work is honored to have Elliott Moore leading our capital campaign. A tireless advocate for the profession and for healthcare, as well as a politically active social worker, Elliott brings the knowledge, skills, and values that are so important to our fundraising efforts. I am very grateful that Elliott is taking on this leadership role, and I look forward to working closely together over the next few years."

—Kirche Rogers is the  
Editor of *Stimulus*



## The College Ranks 7th in Publication Productivity

The college is abuzz with publication activity, as reported in two recent journal articles. An analysis of the publication rate of authors from academic institutions in six social work journals has been conducted every five years since 1970. The most recent study examining productivity from 1999 to 2003 was conducted by Bruce Thyer (Florida State University), Jan Ligon (Georgia State University), and D. Lynn Jackson (University of North Texas) and has been published in the *Journal of Social Service Research*. In the study titled "Academic Affiliations of Social Work Journal Article Authors from 1999–2003: A Productivity Analysis Spanning 25 Years of Social Work Scholarship," nearly 1,000 articles were included, representing 310 academic institutions. The University of Tennessee College of Social Work ranked seventh. This was a notable increase from the previous study period when the college was ranked at the 25th level. You can view the complete study at [https://www.haworthpress.com/store/E-Text/View\\_EText.asp?sid=32E9493AVPL29HANLA5FJ50GGA6W6QNE&a=4&s=J079&v=33&i=3&fn=J079v33n03%5F02](https://www.haworthpress.com/store/E-Text/View_EText.asp?sid=32E9493AVPL29HANLA5FJ50GGA6W6QNE&a=4&s=J079&v=33&i=3&fn=J079v33n03%5F02)

Another article published in the *Journal of Social Work Education* reports results of a study of publication productivity for the period of 2000–2004. This research was a follow up to a similar study conducted for the period of 1990–1999. The college was ranked seventh in this study as well. In the 1990–1999 study, the college ranked 27th.

The results of these studies point to the vast research and ever-increasing knowledge base that enhances the CSW faculty's teaching abilities. "It is nice to see the hard work of the faculty over the last few years recognized and to have hard data demonstrating our progress," stated Dean Sowers. "It is only because of persistent effort and deep commitment to excellence on the part of many individual scholars within our institution that this level of productivity and academic recognition has been reached."

The University of Tennessee, as well as other institutions whose scholars have a high level of productivity, offer a challenge to others who wish to improve their rankings. The research revealed in the publications of the CSW faculty confirms further the high quality of excellence in scholarship that is exceedingly influential in the field of social work.

The study by Thyer, Ligon, and Jackson (2007) can be found in the *Journal of Social Service Research*, 33(3), 13–20; the second study titled "The second decade of the faculty publication project: Journal article publications and the importance of faculty scholarship" by Green and Baskind (2007) can be found in the *Journal of Social Work Education*, 43(2), 281–295. This article can be purchased online at <http://www.cswe.org/CSWE/publications/journal/>

—Kirche Rogers



# The College of Social Work Celebrates 65 Years of Service, Scholarship, and Achievements

by Betsy DeGeorge

In 1942, televisions existed with broadcasting limited to about four hours each week. In that year, the United States was engaged in a war that would, once again, not end all wars. Most institutions and communities practiced some form of segregation based upon racism. High tech in 1942 meant, perhaps, an IBM Electromatic typewriter or a bakelite handset telephone. In 1942, the first nuclear reactor was tested, a standard gauge Lionel Train was the toy of choice, and both *Casablanca* and *Bambi* were blockbuster movies.

It was also in 1942 that the UT School of Social Work first opened its doors. Two major world events, the Great Depression of the 1930s and the New Deal—developed during the presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt in order to provide relief and recovery for those most affected by the depression—spawned a large number of public and private welfare agencies and increased the need for social workers. The brochure announcing the establishment of what eventually became the University of Tennessee College of Social Work stated, “At no time in the history of the country has the need for professionally prepared social workers been greater than now.”

Over the 65-year period that has passed since the School of Social Work was founded in Nashville as

a community project, supported by three existing institutions—Vanderbilt University, Peabody College, and Scarritt College—monumental sociological changes have occurred in our society. The civil rights movement, the rise of feminism, the increase of the Hispanic population in the United States, and other changes in the socio-economic situation in this country have changed our society and social welfare system. However, the need for trained and skilled social workers still remains high, with United States Department of Labor statistical studies projecting, “Employment of social workers is expected to increase faster than the average for all occupations through 2014.”

The first semester of operation began in September of ‘42, with five full-time faculty and 40 students. By 1944, the School had been accredited by the American Association of Schools of Social Work, and the first two graduates received Master of Science in Social Work degrees. Lora Lee Pederson was the School’s first director, serving from 1942 to 1950. Speaking in 1952 at the tenth anniversary celebration of the founding of the School, Pederson said, “May I pay tribute here to those hardy pioneers, those hardy souls—the first faculty and first student body who in a sense swung out into space as they risked their lot with a new school whose course was uncharted and unknown.”

On July 1, 1951, the School officially became the University of Tennessee School of Social Work. From this time on, degrees were awarded by the university in Knoxville, though the School was still located exclusively in Nashville. Soon after, however, a Memphis campus of the School opened, offering first-year graduate courses. In 1958, the School initiated a full-time, one-year Knoxville campus program.

The School became a college, students came and graduated, curriculum changed, a doctoral program was initiated, but the vision of this institution has remained a thread of continuity from the early days to the present. The leadership of the school, from Pederson (1942 to 1950) to Sue Way Spencer (1950 to 1973) to Ben P. Granger (1973 to 1988) to Eunice Shatz (1988 to 1996) to the current Dean Karen Sowers (1997 to present) have demonstrated their commitment to the kind of spirit expressed at the celebration of the 50th anniversary. Dean Shatz stated, “Our vision of the future calls us to a creative commitment to the values of social justice, enhanced quality of life, and productive activity which is respected in environments made more human by those who inhabit them.”

We celebrate in 2007 a longer heritage, and we will continue to acknowledge the need for hardy souls—faculty and students who

For a slide show of the college through the decades go to  
[www.csw.utk.edu/alumni/scrapbook/csw\\_scrapbook.html](http://www.csw.utk.edu/alumni/scrapbook/csw_scrapbook.html)



seek not to simply fill the hours and finish a task, but instead to create difference, energize society for good, and exercise the tools of social action for the betterment of our human and global society.

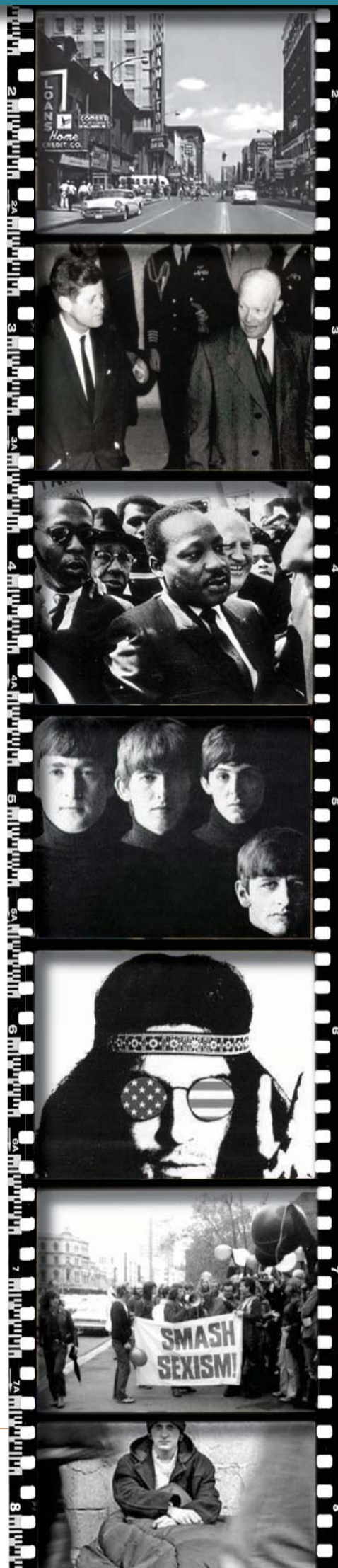
The models from past generations still act as touchstones in our present day. Lucille Evans Dean, alumna of the class of 1956, was the first African American student to graduate from this School. In 1992, she reminisced of her experiences, saying, "... 1954 stood out for me.... Entering the School as a black student was a first, certainly for me. I was struck by the way I was accepted, and I had a good experience in spite of the situation at the time. There were some tense times in the community, but my experience was very positive.

"I was a black student when things were segregated, and there were lots of adjustments. For social events, there was one place that admitted mixed groups. We went there for activities except if an event was held at the School or someone's home. For graduation we went to Knoxville, and they had to make arrangements for me to stay in a home because hotels were not integrated.

"I was very well prepared. We were well prepared to face the world."

The College of Social Work continues to prepare students who are *Ready for the World* and ready to serve in the highest tradition of the profession and this educational environment. Recently, the current dean, Dr. Karen Sowers, commented on the legacy of the school over the course of its history. She stated, "Lora Lee set the stagecoach in motion....and the college has been pioneering ever since! For sixty-five years, the faculty, alumni, and students have forged new territory in the social and behavioral sciences, providing leading-edge research and practice technologies that benefit communities and create more humane environments."

—Betsy DeGeorge is the  
Publications Manager for SWORPS



## Recent Honors and Tributes

Dr. F. Ellen Netting, a 1975 graduate of the University of Tennessee, has been named the Samuel S. Wurtzel Endowed Faculty Chair in Social Work at the Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia.

Dr. David Dia, assistant professor at the Memphis campus, was a participant on the show "It Matters" on WKNO (PBS). This was an hour-long program discussing the issues that contribute to poor "health" outcomes for Memphians.

Cindy Davis, associate professor at the Nashville campus, has been accepted into the Fulbright Scholars program as a Senior Specialist. This program is designed to provide short-term academic opportunities for United States faculty and professionals.

Congratulations to Matthew Theriot, assistant professor at the Knoxville campus, who has been elected president of the Knox County Juvenile Court Assistance Board.

The Veterinary Social Work Program at UT (VSW) will be hosting "The Summit" event on April 17–20, 2008. This is the first of its kind! Also, on September the 9th, VSW held a Pet Loss Memorial Day event to raise money for VSW, which was a success. Janelle Nimer, a PhD fellow, has been selected to travel to Tokyo to represent the VSW and will be giving three poster presentations.

Heather Marshall has been selected to receive the 2007 Bachelor of Social Work Student of the Year Award from the Tennessee Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

Veliska Perumal has been selected as the MSW Student of the Year by the Tennessee Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

Dorothy J. Farnham, age 88, died on March 9, 2007. She was an integral part of the UT family spanning many decades. She received her first degree from UT in 1939, then returned after the death of her husband and earned her Master's degree in Social Work. She was a devoted mother, wife, and community leader who continued to serve the community for more than 20 years and became the beloved "Matriarch" of the family for over 50 years. She will be missed by all.

MSSW student, Laura Bryant, has been awarded \$2,500 from the W.K. McClure Fund for the Study of World Affairs. Her independent study, entitled "Social Work, Community Organizing, and Development in Guatemala," will derive from a four-week trip to Xela, Guatemala.

Dean Karen Sowers has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Concil on Social Work Education (CSWE) as a Graduate Dean Representative for a three-year term from July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2010. The CSWE is the sole accrediting body and educational policy organization for social work education in the entire U.S.

—Anne-Marie Tucker

# Considering a PhD in Social Work?

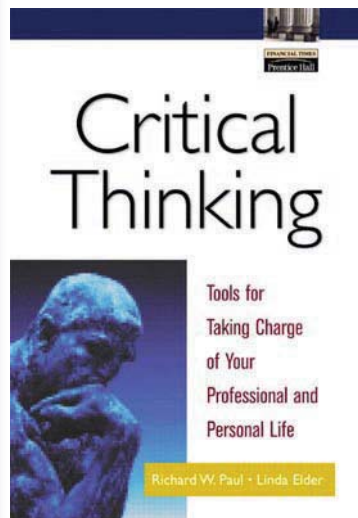
The college's PhD Program offers specialized training in research methods with a focus on direct practice and management and community practice issues. It also

- ◆ Provides access to world-class faculty doing research on the culture and climate of human service agencies, child neglect, foster parenting, juvenile justice, gerontology, antisocial behavior, and school social work.
- ◆ Features guaranteed three-year stipends and fee waivers and student health insurance.
- ◆ Provides offices and computers with access to the Web for all PhD students.
- ◆ Presents opportunities to work with Children's Mental Health Services Research Center researchers.
- ◆ Is located in Knoxville, a region with a low cost of living and great community.
- ◆ Is home to two CSWE Minority Fellows.

For further information, please contact

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## World-Renowned Scholar on Critical Thinking Presents Workshop to Social Work Faculty



On August 14 and 15, CSW faculty were asked to put on their "thinking caps." Dr. Linda Elder, president of the Foundation for Critical Thinking and executive director of the Center for Critical Thinking (the Center), conducted a workshop at the college on how faculty can help students learn to analyze, assess, and reconstruct the way they think about any subject, content, or problem so that they can improve their communication and problem solving skills and question assumptions that might prevent them from considering alternate viewpoints.

Dr. Elder was invited to conduct the workshop at the request of the faculty who are teaching the new MSSW curriculum, which is founded on critical thinking. "Our new curriculum emphasizes the utilization of evidence-based practices. This requires that students be able to critically think through the literature and be capable of selecting the most efficacious interventions given their client/client system's unique situation," stated Dean Sowers. "The teaching of critical thinking skills throughout the curriculum is an exciting new piece of our master's program."

Dr. Elder is an educational psychologist and former vice president of State Technical Institute, the largest community college in

Tennessee. She has co-authored four books and the Thinker's Guide series and has taught both psychology and critical thinking at the college level. Her work in the classroom helped her understand firsthand the challenges that educators face in transforming student minds. She has developed an original stage theory of critical thinking development, which she helps K-12, college, and university faculty integrate into their curricula and teaching strategies.

Dr. Elder defines critical thinking as "that mode of thinking—about any subject, content, or problem—in which the thinker improves the quality of his or her thinking by skillfully analyzing, assessing, and reconstructing it." The importance of critical thinking, according to Dr. Elder, is that it can improve our quality of life and what we produce, make, or build. It changes our thinking that is biased, distorted, partial, uninformed, or prejudiced into thoughts that are relevant, logical, and fair.

Dr. Elder states that critical thinking is the first and most important insight necessary for the appropriate design of instruction and curriculum. She believes that content is a mode of thinking about something, a way of figuring something out, a way of understanding something through thought.

In the workshop, Dr. Elder focused on the eight elements of thought: Point of View, Purpose, Question at Issue, Information, Interpretation and Inference, Concepts, Assumptions, and Implications and Consequences. By carefully assessing each element when studying various concepts, students learn to analyze

content more deeply and are able to better understand what they learn.

Approaching content in this way can help educators encourage critical thinking in their students. As a result, a well-cultivated, critically thinking student will be able to raise vital questions and problems, gather and assess relevant information, and reach well-reasoned conclusions and solutions.

Dr. Elder's experience and knowledge will benefit the college in many ways. Most importantly, MSSW graduates will leave the college armed with skills that will help them achieve greater results in their work with clients and find solutions to problems that many of our society's most vulnerable populations face every day.

For more information on Dr. Elder and the Foundation and Center for Critical Thinking, visit <http://www.criticalthinking.org>.

—Kirche Rogers





# Media Enhanced Feature

## Unique Program for Youth of Tennessee Migrant Community



Jane Crowe, a 2002 graduate of the master's program at the UT College of Social Work, has a flare for capturing positive images, and in a time when the debate

about immigration seems to have become blurry, she, at least, seems to be able to bring things into focus. With a few cameras and some very willing young photographers, Crowe and her crew have created an atmosphere of learning, art, creativity, and beauty that has cultivated a common ground of appreciation for people from all over Tennessee.

Crowe is the program development coordinator for Telamon Corporation's Head Start youth initiatives program. In 2006, she established the Tennessee Migrant and Seasonal Head Start photography project for older siblings of Head Start students. The project is designed to give middle- and high-school aged youth educational and enrichment programs. In partnership with the local 4-H group, and with funds from the Starbucks Foundation, the Tennessee Arts Commission, and Head Start, "Growing Tennessee" developed as an opportunity for youths from migrant and seasonal farm worker families and families from rural Appalachia to learn both how to capture pictures with cameras and how to use photography to cross cultural boundaries and share ethnic traditions.

The purpose of the project, said Crowe, was for participants to "come to recognize and value and deepen the idea of their own families and traditions, while also exploring the cultural traditions of others." A continuing project, the initial group of students numbered 20, each of whom received training and was given a 35 mm camera. Part of the energy of the

project has been in the presentation of their work to the community, and it has been warmly received. "Growing Tennessee: Rural Youth Cultivate Common Ground" became a lively multimedia show at The Art Gallery of Knoxville for two months this summer. Crowe, the curator of the show, said "I believe in the transformative power of the arts. It touches people socially, emotionally, and spiritually. There is immediacy to photography that can bring people together. It empowers individuals, communities, and societies, opening new ways of thinking and providing cross-cultural competencies."

Interest in the work of these teens has spread. One candid portrait, created by 17-year-old Liliana Ascencio, revealed a moving interpretation of youthful celebration. This picture of a child in a plastic tiara at a birthday party was featured on a PR Newswire billboard display at New York City's Times Square. Ascencio is serious about her work as an artist. She stated, "With photography, it's a representation of how we see the world. When you look at a photograph, you're looking at the world through someone else's eyes."

Crowe received her degree from the college's master's program with a concentration in management and community practice. She reports that her coursework and field practice were instrumental in preparing her for the work she does today. She is able to perform as a generalist, directly serving the children and families in this project with sensitivity and understanding. At the same time she is conscious of the big picture, capable of developing grants, carrying out

the project mission, evaluating the achievements, making improvements, bringing community stakeholders together, managing budgets, and planning for the future.



For more information about the work of this alumna, visit the Fall 2007 Stimulus media enhanced website at [www.csw.utk.edu/about/stimulus/index.html](http://www.csw.utk.edu/about/stimulus/index.html). There you will see a gallery of the photographic work from the youth initiative, links to some of the exciting exhibits in which the student photographers have participated as well as information about professional artists with whom they have co-exhibited, and announcements of recent exhibits.

—Betsy DeGeorge

## Dr. Rod Ellis Teaches Course in Mexico



Dr. Rod Ellis, associate professor and coordinator of International Programs, taught a brief seminar on program evaluation in August 2007 for faculty at *la Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon*. During the 4-day seminar, Dr. Ellis used a single agency as a case study. He then used a small-group format to discuss and work on activities based on the case study. He provided information such as the mission statement and program goals of the case study agency in both English and Spanish. In addition, he provided the attendees with practical exercises they could complete after his departure.

Dr. Ellis matched members of the groups with stronger English skills with persons who had weaker English skills. Groups were allowed to report in either English or Spanish, although Dr. Ellis reports that "in practice, most of the conversations were in *Spanglish*." Dr. Ellis, or *Rodrigo*, as he was known to the participants, remarks that teaching was at times challenging for him. "I began with, '*¡Lo ciento, mi Español no es muy bueno!*' (I'm sorry, my Spanish isn't very good!), then proceeded to prove it!"

Dr. Ellis says participants had various levels of knowledge of both program evaluation and English. "I found that I frequently needed to draw upon the expertise of some participants to adequately communicate certain concepts," he says. "My knowledge of the participants increased substantially, my own Spanish improved *un poquito*, and the level of cultural understanding and acceptance among us increased exponentially."

—Margot Kline



# MSSW Students Win Policy Poster Contest

(Portions of this article were extracted from an article published by the TN NASW.)



(l. to r.) Cindy Davis, Sandra Gonzalez, Allison Midden, John Bradley, Edna Brown, and Sherry Cummings.

The college is pleased to announce that five MSSW students from the Nashville campus—John Bradley, Audrey Cravajal, Julia Dobbins, Anna Kauffman, and Allison Midden—won the policy poster contest at the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Legislative Conference, held on April 2–3, 2007.

The conference, formerly known as Social Work Day on the Hill, is hosted by the Tennessee chapter of NASW. This year, over 650 social workers and social work students from across Tennessee visited the Tennessee legislature as part of the Legislative Conference. The gathering was the largest social work advocacy event in the nation. Practitioners, educators, and students from all over the state came together at Legislative Plaza in Nashville to discuss the policy responses to issues that impact the social work profession and their clients as well as to participate in educational workshops focused on ethics, policy, and the social work licensure law. In addition to hosting knowledgeable speakers and legislators, the event also served as a call to action and was a unifying experience that linked the practice community to social welfare policy.

This year's conference focused on the changes in Families First, issues impacting immigrants and refugees, and social work professional issues. A highlight of the legislative conference is policy poster presentations by students from universities and colleges across the state. The policy poster presentation involves an in-depth review of a particular social problem and the policy needed to alleviate the problem. The MSSW students from the college who won the contest presented a poster on the changes in the Families First program.

—Kirche Rogers

## School Discipline Study Significant to Findings of Task Force

The Knox County Task Force on Racial Disparity appointed by Knox County Mayor Mike Ragsdale based some of their findings and recommendations in the final report to the Knox County School Board on a study conducted by Drs. Matthew Theriot, Sarah Craun, and David Dupper, College of Social Work faculty members. Theriot, Craun and Dupper, using hierarchical linear modeling (a multi-level form of analysis), evaluated student and school characteristics together in predicting the likelihood of being excluded from school. School exclusion includes both out-of-school suspensions and expulsions.

They reviewed 9,706 middle and high school students with reported disciplinary incidents in Knox County schools and found that neither student ethnicity nor the interactions of ethnicity with poverty and gender significantly predicted the likelihood of school exclusion. Instead, a student's poverty level, previous number of in-school and out-of-school suspensions, and the severity of the last infraction predict school exclusion. They also found that students who attend schools that use out-of-school suspensions more frequently are more likely to be suspended than students attending schools with a lower rate of out-of-school suspension. This last finding points to the fact that some schools are less tolerant of certain student behaviors and respond to these behaviors in more punitive ways.

Chair of the task force, former State Senator Bud Gilbert, relied heavily on the findings from the school discipline study in his presentation to the Knox County School Board in March 2007, by reporting that race was not as large a factor as poverty in school suspensions and that socioeconomic distinctions were a more relevant indicator of suspension risk than was race.

David Dupper commented on the study, saying, "We must continue to be concerned about race, but our findings also point out that we need to be concerned about low SES (socioeconomic status) students in general. We need to provide much more support for poor kids attending our schools."

—Betsy DeGeorge

**Knox County Task Force on Racial Disparity finds poverty the greatest factor predicting school suspension.**

## We'd like to thank the Sponsors of This Year's Homecoming Gala

- ◆ Akins/Crisp Public Strategies
- ◆ Centerstone
- ◆ Child & Family of Tennessee
- ◆ Cornerstone of Recovery
- ◆ Knox County Public Defender's Community Law Office
- ◆ Pilot Corporation
- ◆ Pro2Serve

## The College Welcomes New Faculty and Field Coordinators *by Kathy Williams*

The College of Social Work would like to welcome the following new faculty and field coordinators.

**Scott Burcham** joined the college as Coordinator of Field Services for the Memphis campus in August 2007. He is responsible for securing intern sites for students, monitoring those sites, and

creating new sites all within the guidelines of the university and the accrediting body of the Council on Social Work Education. Scott plays a vital role in the social work community by linking fields of practice to the university. He also oversees field instructor training. Scott stated, "Joining the College of Social Work is an exciting and inspiring event. The college is widely recognized in the discipline, and colleagues are recognized experts in their respective fields. It is more than exciting to be part of an institution positioned to continue leadership and excellence in social work education."

**Lyle Cooper** joined the college as assistant professor in June 2007.

He works at the Nashville campus, teaching clinical courses and conducting research with specific interests in HIV/

AIDS, substance abuse, and harm reduction approaches. He received his MSW from Kent School of Social Work—University of Louisville and his PhD from the University of Louisville. Lyle stated, "I am very happy to be here and to have the support UT offers in carrying out my research agenda."

**Leonora Foels** joined the College of Social Work's Nashville faculty in August 2007, as a full-time lecturer. She is responsible for lecturing in five classes, advising social work graduate students, and is an advisor to the MSSWO. She received her PhD from Barry University. "I feel honored to be part of a great team," she stated.

**Sandra Gonzalez** began her full-time appointment as Coordinator of Field Services at the Nashville campus this past summer. She is responsible for coordination and oversight of the field education component in the MSSW program, which includes the development and strengthening of relationships with community agencies, matching students to appropriate field practicum settings, coordinating and conducting field instructor training, facilitating field seminars and working with field consultants and field instructors to ensure the quality of the student experience in the field. She received her MSSW from UT. Sandra stated, "I am very grateful for the opportunity to be joining the College of Social Work at such an exciting time. I am particularly thrilled to be a part of the curricular advancements in the MSSW program and the increasing opportunities for students to participate in international study."

**Phyllis Thompson** joined the College of Social Work's Nashville faculty as a full-time lecturer in August 2007. She teaches two classes—Lifespan and Neurophysiologic Development in a Cultural, Ecological and Transactional Framework and Social, Economic and Political Environments. Phyllis also advises students and serves on several committees. Phyllis added a quote from Oprah that reflects her feelings on working at the college, "It's what I was born to do."

—Kathy Williams is a Training Coordinator for SWORPS



## James Kelly (MSSW '72) Elected President of NASW

University of Tennessee College of Social Work alumnus, Dr. James J. Kelly, was recently voted president-elect of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). Dr. Kelly's term as president-elect began on July 1, 2007, and he will hold the position under the current NASW president until June 30, 2011. Dr. Kelly will serve as president of the association.

Dr. Kelly has been a member of NASW since 1971, has served the organization in numerous positions, and has been the recipient of a number of NASW awards including Social Worker of the Year. As president, Dr. Kelly's goals are to work to strengthen and unify the profession by using the well-developed 56-chapter national structure as a cornerstone. His top priorities include building financial partnerships with NASW state chapters to develop products and marketing strategies that increase membership and non-dues revenues, promoting innovative strategies for NASW to improve its image and achieve its goals, and aggressively seeking buy-in from legislators, businesses, and affiliated organizations to effect policy changes that will enhance social justice.

In response to being elected, Dr. Kelly stated, "I am very excited and honored to have been chosen for this prestigious role. I am proud of being a social worker, and having colleagues show such confidence in me is quite humbling. This position affords me an exceptional opportunity to put into play all of the ideas gathered from my students and fellow social workers over the years."

Dr. Kelly received his MSSW from The University of Tennessee College of Social Work in 1972 and expressed his gratitude to the university by stating, "First and foremost, I would like to thank the University of Tennessee faculty for the training I received, which has provided the backbone of my career. My internship introduced me to the ethics of the profession and to the importance of practice. I am forever indebted to Hugh Vaughn, Jenny Collier, and Virginia Gates. These faculty taught me during my first year and were responsible for overseeing my placement at the Department of Public Welfare. Secondly, I would like to thank my fellow University of Tennessee social work students. Those relationships and shared experiences helped shape my future."

Dr. Kelly is currently the executive vice president and provost of Menlo College, located in Menlo Park, California.

—Kathy Williams







1. 100% of the BSSW 2007 graduating class made a five-year donor pledge to the college. Thank you to the 2007 BSSW class!



2. (l. to r.) Stan L. Bowie, BSSW faculty member; Josh Demott, current BSSW student; Dean Sowers; and Matthew Theriot, acting director of BSSW program, chat at the annual CSW open house.



3. Board of Visitors members meet in the spring with Dean Sowers. Back row (l. to r.): Stephanie Piper, Karen Sowers, Wardell Milan, David Guth, Dan Caldwell, Darrell Akins, and Jo Zarger. Front row (l. to r.): Mary Catherine Willard, Libby McColl, Betty Robinson, Carol Tindell, and Elliott Moore.



4. (l. to r.) Stephanie Piper, college director of development; Elliott Moore and Jim Henry, Board of Visitors members; Sherry Cummings, associate dean; and Dean Sowers at the TCSW College reception in Nashville.

5. Dean Sowers with special guest Provost Bob Holub at the college's annual retreat reception.



6. Provost Holub (far left) joins in the singing of "Rocky Top" with new faculty at the annual retreat.



7. BSSW students Loren Milstead (l.) and Shannon Jewell (middle) and Dr. Sarah Craun (r.) discuss their research with Board of Visitors members.



8. Dr. Sarah Craun (l.) and BSSW student Shannon Jewell present their two-fold study on race and HIV clients.



9. (l. to r.) Heather Marshall, BSSW '07, along with Laura Glazer and Bethany Townsend, both current BSSW students, manage the Study Abroad booth at the annual CSW open house.



## Stephanie Piper Joins the College as the New Development Director *by Margot Kline*



The College welcomes Stephanie Piper, who began work as director of development in the College of Social Work in February

2007. Piper is responsible for the college's fundraising efforts, with an emphasis on major gifts. Her responsibilities include identifying potential donors and matching their philanthropic interests with the college's priorities.

Piper works closely with the Dean, the Board of Visitors, and the college's capital campaign leaders. She comes to the college from the Volunteer Ministry Center, a local non-profit agency serving the poor and homeless. At VMC, she was Director of Development and Public

Relations and helped to raise \$3 million for a new building.

Although Piper is new to the College of Social Work, she knows UT very well. She spent 11 years in the university's Office of Public Relations, working with the national media and writing for *Tennessee Alumnus*, *The Torchbearer*, and other UT publications. She is the former features editor of the old *Knoxville Daily Journal* and writes a monthly column for *Metropulse*.

Piper encourages alumni to stay in touch with the college and says, "If you would like to update your contact information (address, phone, e-mail address, etc.), provide an update regarding career news, awards, or achievements, or if you are not receiving the *Stimulus* newsletter, please contact me at [spiper@utk.edu](mailto:spiper@utk.edu) or by calling me at (865) 974-5363."

—Margot Kline is an Information Specialist for SWORPS

## PhD Student Awarded Prestigious Dissertation Grant



Kimberly McClure Cassie, a doctoral candidate, has received a \$50,000 Hartford Dissertation Research Grant from the John A. Hartford Foundation. The grant is administered by The Gerontological Society of America, the oldest and largest multidisciplinary scientific

organization devoted to the advancement of gerontological research. Cassie previously received a Hartford pre-dissertation grant.

This highly competitive and prestigious award will enable Cassie to more fully concentrate on her dissertation research project over the next two years. She will also receive academic career guidance and mentoring and professional development, which will help her more successfully launch an academic career in gerontology and social work research.

Cassie previously worked in nursing homes that had varying types of work environments. Because of her experiences, she decided to focus her dissertation topic on the organizational culture and climate of nursing homes. Specifically, she is studying employee work attitudes, turnover, and resident outcomes.

The grant has allowed Cassie to choose a large sample of 30 nursing homes and will help defray the costs of gathering data and travel. She has attended statistical and analysis training in Chicago and plans to attend a Gerontological Society of America conference this fall where she will be introduced to leading researchers in gerontological social work.

Cassie eventually hopes to continue conducting research in nursing homes when she graduates through securing a tenure track position at a higher education institution. This topic is important to her because she is dedicated to improving the quality of life of nursing home residents and improving services to those older adults in need of care but who are able to stay in their homes.

Dr. Charles Glisson, Cassie's major professor, stated, "Kimberly is an outstanding student and her research on the organizational culture and climate of nursing homes is extremely ambitious. The prestigious Hartford dissertation award underscores the quality of Kimberly's work and provides the recognition and fiscal support she deserves to complete a truly groundbreaking study."

—Kirche Rogers

## Stan L. Bowie Receives African American Image Award



Dr. Stan L. Bowie, an associate professor at the College of Social Work, received the first annual University of Tennessee African American Image Award at a ceremony held on February 8, 2007. A student or student organization nominated Dr. Bowie for the award. According to the sponsors of the award, The Office of Minority Student Affairs African American Image Awards Committee, Dr. Bowie was nominated because of his outstanding efforts and record of service to the university and to the Knoxville community. Most importantly, he was recognized for being a positive role model for the minority student population at the University of Tennessee.

On receiving the award, Dr. Bowie stated, "I am very, very honored and humbled to have received this honor and to be the first recipient of the African American Image Award. I try to be a selfless community servant, and I give to the community without any expectation of reciprocity or recognition. This was a nice surprise and I am grateful to all of those involved, especially the student(s) who nominated me. I am also proud to represent the College of Social Work."

—Kathy Williams



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Knoxville

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